The Post-1996 retirees also receive 40% instead of 33% of commutation amount, enhanced gratuity upto Rs. 3.5 lakhs based on the last pay drawn and Dearness Allowance admissible thereon and 300 days leave encashment in the new scale as against 240 days in the old scale drawn by pre-1996 retirees and as such full terminal benefits of pre and post 1996 retirees cannot be compared. However, the grievances of some of the employees affected are likely to be redressed with the decision taken by the Government to step up pension to 50% of the minimum revised pay as on 1.1.1996.

**Recommendation of Pay Commission Regarding DA to Pensioners**

595. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fifth Pay Commission rcecommended that the Dearness Relief of the Pensioners should be merged with their pensions periodically whenever the Dearness Allowance of the serving employees is merged with their basic pay;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this recommendation was not accepted by Government? and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government would reconsider the matter favourably so as to give some relief to the pensioners in the scenario of continuously rising prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) The merger of DR with pension has been correlated with the merger of DA with pay. No proposal for such a merger is under consideration of the Government.

**Strength of Senior Officers**

596. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the total number of Deputy Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, Additional Secretaries and Secretaries working in Government of India and Commissions set up by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): A statement containing the desired information is enclosed.

**Statement**

*Number of Deputy Secretaries/Directors, Joint Secretaries, Additional Secretaries and Secretaries working in Government of India and Commissions set up by the Central Government as per the appointments made through the Department of Personnel and Training, as on the 1st November, 1998*

| Sl. No | Level | Total Number |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Deputy Secretaries/Directors | 858 |
| 2. | Joint Secretaries | 416 |
| 3. | Additional Secretaries | 102 |
| 4. | Secretaries | 135 |

Decision regarding pension to pre-1996 retirees

597. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government in last week of October, 1998 have decided to revise the pension of Central Government retirees before 1st January, 1996 as per formula recommended by the 5th Pay Commission;